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SHORT COMMUNICATION

Procas granulicollis Walton (Col.: Curculionidae) discovered in Surrey—The known world distribution of this weevil has until now been the hill country of the north and west of Britain—in Cumberland and Kirkcudbrightshire (Hyman, 1992) and three Welsh vice-counties (Fowles, 1992). It was therefore a considerable surprise when one was found amongst material taken on Holmwood Common (TQ1746), near Dorking in Surrey. Just the single specimen had been captured, by sweep-netting along a rideside in rather nondescript secondary woodland with open bracken-filled glades, 29.vii.1997. The situation of bracken in glades within ungrazed woodland is precisely as described for Welsh localities (Fowles, 1992).

Following up on this discovery, John Owen and other coleopterists visited the spot, 2.v.1998, and had no difficulty in finding *P. granulicollis* in some numbers by sieving bracken debris. They saw about 30 examples and estimate the population density at some spots to be around 10 per square metre. Only two small spots were closely examined. In one, where the weevil was plentiful, there were numerous seedlings of *Corydalis claviculata*. Many seedlings showed signs of being eaten and one weevil was found on a plant. At the other spot, about 100 m distant, there were plenty of weevils but not a sign of the plant. *Corydalis* has been identified as a key feature of the known sites and is suspected to be the main foodplant of the adult weevil.

Holmwood Common is a large area of common land, ungrazed since the 1950s, which has developed extensive cover of secondary oak and birch woodland. It is underlain by Cretaceous Wealden Clay and soils covering the site are mainly poorly drained silty or clayey surface water gleys, grading locally to better drained acidic sandy soils (Wickham 1 Association). The bulk of the woodland falls within the W10, *Quercus robur*–*Pteridium aquilinum*–*Rubus fruticosus* community of the National Vegetation Classification (Rodwell, 1991). The W10 community is characteristically found on base-poor brown soils throughout the temperate lowlands of southern Britain, often in places like Holmwood which have poor drainage and a tendency for seasonal waterlogging. The woods are otherwise unremarkable in terms of botanical and entomological interest due to their recent secondary origin.

My thanks to Mike Morris for identifying the weevil, to John Owen for carrying out some follow-up recording, and to Janet Lister for information on geology, soils and vegetation.—KEITH N. A. ALEXANDER, The National Trust, 33 Sheep Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1RQ.

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